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Agenda item 81

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rastislav **Gabriel** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 54/63 of 1 December 1999.

2. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 September 2000, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 65 to 81, which was held at the 3rd to 13th meetings, from 2 to 13 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.3-13). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 14th to 21st meetings, from 13 to 23 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.14-21). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 22nd to 28th meetings, from 25 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/55/PV.22-28).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a letter dated 23 August 2000 from the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (A/55/336);

(b) Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the conclusions of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Eight, meeting at Miyazaki, Japan, on 13 July 2000 (A/55/162-S/2000/715);

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(c) Letter dated 3 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/255);

(d) Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué Okinawa 2000 adopted by the Group of Eight on 23 July 2000 (A/55/257-S/2000/766);

(e) Letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/462-S/2000/974);

(f) Letter dated 31 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué issued by the heads of State and Government and representatives of the 16 States members of the Pacific Islands Forum at its thirty-first meeting, held at Tarawa from 27 to 30 October 2000 (A/55/536).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.37

5. At the 21st meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Australia, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/55/L.37). Subsequently, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Turkey and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 25th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.37 by a recorded vote of 149 to none, with 7 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya,

Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, India, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996 and opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Noting that, by its resolution 54/63 of 1 December 1999, it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty",

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and sixty States, including forty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming also the ratification of sixty-five States, including thirty of the forty-four needed for its entry into force,

Recalling its endorsement, in resolution 54/63, of the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,[1] held at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999 to promote the entry into force of the Treaty at the earliest possible date,

[1] A/54/514-S/1999/1102, annex.

1. *Stresses* the importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular to its efforts to ensure that the Treaty's verification regime will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

3. *Urges* States to maintain their moratoria on nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, pending the entry into force of the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to refrain from acts that would defeat its object and purpose in the meanwhile;

5. *Calls upon* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to their early successful conclusion;

6. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".